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High number of doctoral and Master's graduates at UCT graduation ceremonies

The University of Cape Town (UCT) will cap approximately 480 doctoral and Master's graduands at the three ceremonies scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 20 December 2017 in the Memorial Hall.

The three ceremonies, starting at 09:00, 14:00 and 18:00 respectively, will see about 112 students receive doctoral degrees and about 368 students receive Master's degrees. Each faculty is due to graduate a number of undergraduate qualifiers – with the exception of the Faculty of Health Sciences, in which all qualifiers for undergraduate programmes will be capped.

UCT Registrar, Royston Pillay, says: "Graduation is a time to celebrate the achievement of our students, and also an affirmation of the academic project and the contribution of UCT to our wider society. It is a reminder of our purpose as a university."

Pillay adds that the university is extremely proud to produce the high number of graduates, with a notably higher number at postgraduate level.

"We congratulate all our students who will be reaping the rewards for all their hard work and sacrifice, particularly given the extraordinary year that we have had.

"We are particularly impressed that the excellent research by a number of our postgraduate students will go on to benefit and impact society at large. It will also will contribute to some of the many challenges our country and even the continent are grappling with in various fields."

The speakers at the graduation ceremonies will be Dr Judy Dlamini and Dr Leon Fine.

Dr Dlamini is a qualified medical doctor and an accomplished businesswoman with an MBA and PhD in business leadership. She is the founder and executive chairman of the Mbekani Group. She is also the former chairperson of Aspen Pharmacare Limited, a JSE-listed South African pharmaceutical manufacturer with more than 60 established business operations in over 50 countries.

Another speaker, Dr Fine, is a UCT alumni and an Emeritus Professor of Medicine at University College London, Professor of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles and Professor of Biomedical Sciences and Medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Time	Faculty	Speaker
09:00	Commerce	Dr Leon Fine
14:00	Health Sciences	Dr Judy Dlamini
18:00	Engineering and the Built Environment; Humanities; Law; Science	

This is the third set of graduation ceremonies hosted by UCT this year.

Five months ago, 1 112 students – including 103 doctoral candidates – graduated at three ceremonies hosted on Friday, 14 July.

In May 2017, 6 566 students were capped at 14 graduation ceremonies over six days. This included 148 doctoral candidates.

All graduation sessions are open to members of the media.

ENDS

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